IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a liquid energy carrier comprising producing a synthesis gas by gasifying a solid carbon carrier in a plant which comprises at least a drying apparatus for drying the carbon carrier, a gasification apparatus for gasifying the carbon carrier and for producing the synthesis gas, a synthesis apparatus for the synthesis of the liquid energy carrier from the synthesis gas and an apparatus for the electrolysis of water for producing oxygen as gasification agent for the gasification process in the gasification apparatus and hydrogen for the synthesis process in the synthesis apparatus, and feeding at least part of off-vapor from the drying apparatus and at least part of residual gas obtained in the synthesis to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising feeding carbon-containing residues from the gasification apparatus and part of the oxygen produced in the apparatus for the electrolysis of water to combustion process in a combustion apparatus.

3. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the solid carbon carrier is one which has a reduced heating value and is, in accordance with its starting structure, conditioned to the required extent before introduction into the drying apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising feeding the CO2- and oxygen-containing offgas from the combustion apparatus as gasification agent to the gasification apparatus.

5. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising carrying out the drying process for the carbon carrier in the drying apparatus thereby to produce the off-vapor being free of incondensable components, the drying process being carried out in a closed system and without entraining air.

6. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising condensing in a condenser the off-vapor from the drying apparatus which is not fed to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus.

7. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising purifying and/or cooling the synthesis gas before introduction of the synthesis gas into the synthesis apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising feeding residues from the gas purification and/or residual gas from the synthesis apparatus not fed to the gasification process in the gasification apparatus to the combustion process in the combustion apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 2, further comprising introducing the waste heat obtained in the gasification process and/or the synthesis of the liquid energy carrier and/or the combustion process and/or the gas purification into the drying apparatus and introducing cooling into the drying apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented) A plant for producing a liquid energy carrier from a synthesis gas which is produced by gasification of a solid carbon carrier, comprising at least a drying apparatus for drying the carbon carrier, a gasification apparatus for gasifying the carbon carrier, a synthesis apparatus for the synthesis of the liquid energy carrier from the synthesis gas, an apparatus for the electrolysis of water for producing oxygen as gasification agent for the gasification process in the gasification apparatus and hydrogen for the synthesis process in the synthesis apparatus, and a combustion apparatus which is connected to an outlet for carbon-

containing gasification residues from the gasification apparatus and an oxygen outlet of the apparatus for the electrolysis of water.

11. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~The plant as claimed in claim 10,~~ wherein the gasification apparatus is connected to an outlet for a residual gas from the synthesis on the synthesis apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~The plant as claimed in claim 10 or 11,~~ further comprising providing an apparatus for gas purification and/or cooling positioned between the gasification apparatus and/or the synthesis apparatus and/or the combustion apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~The plant as claimed in claim 10 or 11,~~ further comprising providing at least one apparatus for gas purification and/or cooling which comprises a fluidized-bed apparatus with integrated steam generation and a steam ~~an~~ outlet ~~for the steam~~ connected to an inlet for heating steam on the drying apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~The plant as claimed in claim 10 or 11,~~ further comprising providing a waste heat collection apparatus which collects the waste heat from the gasification apparatus and/or the

synthesis apparatus and/or the combustion apparatus and passes it to the drying apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~The plant as claimed in claim 10 or 11,~~ further comprising providing an outlet for off-vapor from the drying apparatus and/or an outlet for residual gas from the synthesis apparatus connected to the gasification apparatus through a device for regulating an amount of the off-vapor and/or the residual gas.